such as bromine, chlorine or iodine, an aromatic hydrocarbon group having from 6 to 15 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having from 7 to 17 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxycarbonyl group having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms and an acyl group having from 2 to 15 carbon atoms; R^2 represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 100 carbon atoms which may be substituted, wherein the substituent includes an alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and an aromatic hydrocarbon group having from 6 to 15 carbon atoms; and n represents an integer of from 1 to 100.

The part of $(R^2\text{-}O)_n$ in formula (I) may comprise two or three kinds of groups as far as R^2 and n are in the above-defined scope. Specifically, it may form a random or block chain comprising, for example, a combination of an ethyleneoxy group and a propyleneoxy group, a combination of an oxyethyleneoxy group and an isopropyleneoxy group, a combination of an ethyleneoxy group and butyleneoxy group or a combination of an ethyleneoxy group and isobutyleneoxy group.

In the present invention, the nonionic surface active agents having a polyoxyalkylene ether group may be used individually or as a mixture of two or more thereof. An amount of the nonionic surface active agent having a polyoxyalkylene ether group effectively added is from 1 to

30% by weight, preferably from 2 to 20% by weight in the developing solution.

If the amount added is too small, the developing property degrades, and on the other hand, if it is too large, the damage due to development in the exposed area increases, resulting in decrease of press life of a printing plate.

Other surface active agents described below may be added to the developing solution according to the present invention. Examples of the other surface active agents usable include a nonionic surface active agent, for example, a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether, e.g., polyoxyethylene lauryl ether, polyoxyethylene cetyl ether or polyoxyethylene stearyl ether, a polyoxyethylene alkylaryl ether, e.g., polyoxyethylene octylphenyl ether or polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether, a polyoxyethylene alkyl ester, e.g., polyoxyethylene stearate, a sorbitan alkyl ester, e.g., sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monostearate, sorbitan distearate, sorbitan monooleate, sorbitan sesquioleate or sorbitan trioleate, or a mono glyceride alkyl ester, e.g., glycerol monostearate or glycerol monooleate; an anionic surface active agent, for example, an alkylbenzenesulfonate, e.g., sodium dodecylbenzenesulfonate, an alkylnaphthalenesulfonate, e.g., sodium butylnaphthalenesulfonate, sodium

pentylnaphthalenesulfonate, sodium hexylnaphthalenesulfonate or sodium octylnaphthalenesulfonate, an alkylsulfate, e.g., sodium laurylsulfate, an alkylsulfonate, e.g., sodium dodecylsulfonate, or a sulfosuccinate, e.g., sodium dilaurylsulfosuccinate; and an amphoteric surface active agent, for example, an alkylbetaine, e.g., laurylbetaine or stearylbetaine, or an amino acid. An anionic surface active agent such as an alkylnaphthalenesulfonate is particularly preferred.

These surface active agents may be used individually or as a mixture of two or more thereof. A content of such a surface active agent is preferably from 0.1 to 20% by weight in the developing solution.

In the developing solution according the present invention, other components described below may be used together with the components described above, if desired. Examples of such components include an organic carboxylic acid, e.g., benzoic acid, phthalic acid, p-ethylbenzoic acid, p-n-propylbenzoic acid, p-isopropylbenzoic acid, p-n-butylbenzoic acid, p-tert-butylbenzoic acid, p-2-hydroxyethylbenzoic acid, decanoic acid, salicylic acid or 3-hydroxy-2-naphtoic acid; an organic solvent, e.g., isopropyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, ethyl cellosolve, butyl cellosolve, phenyl cellosolve, propylene glycol or